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E-573

May 19, 1983

Dear Senator Thurmond:

Thank you for your letter of May 9 on behalf of Mr. John W. Hardee concerning Raoul Wallenberg.

The President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities.

As you may know, President Reagan signed into law in October 1981 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic act. It made the world aware of our great admiration for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Government.

To further emphasize our dedication to resolve the mystery surrounding Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets through diplomatic channels immediately after he was made an honorary U.S. citizen. As yet, we have not received a response from them. However, our efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in his case.

We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings and international forums, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In 1982, the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the Commission, the U.S. Alternate Representative again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most

The Honorable  
Strom Thurmond,  
United States Senate.

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noble spirits." He suggested the U.N. Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case.

We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

Sincerely,

  
Powell A. Moore  
Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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